

Bastions being bolstered



A string of bastions in various cities including Valletta are being restored at a cost of €36 million. Picture shows the maze of scaffolding by the bastion rising up from the ditch below the Upper Barrakka Gardens, Valletta.
Photo: Jason Borg

About 135,000 square metres of bastion façades, stretching along six kilometres of fortifications in four towns, are being restored to the tune of €36 million.

Scaffolding can be seen covering bastions in Valletta, Mdina, Vittoriosa and the citadel in Gozo, where the four restoration projects are under way, financed mainly by the EU.

Many of the forts and bastions were not presentable and some were even in an advanced state of deterioration, due not only to natural factors but also human activity, Resources Minister George Pullicino said. Addressing a public seminar on The Restoration of the Historic Fortifications of Malta and Gozo, the minister said the sites that required the most urgent intervention were selected.


Apart from reflecting architectural and historical importance, they also presented various problems that required different methods of intervention and solutions, from the simple changing of stones to rock bolting, land consolidation and the installation of lighting and signage.

Mr Pullicino said extensive technical preparation had been carried out in the run-up to the restoration process by the Restoration Unit, which, over the last five years, has undertaken 90 projects.

Comments


Noel Tonna(2 weeks, 2 days ago) 

It is good to know that there are places getting a facelift. Unfortunately Fort Ricasoli is in dire need of attention. I passed close by just a month or so ago. I was shocked to see the state of this fort. There are numerous pieces falling off the walls, derelict buildings, etc.. Tourists often pass by during their harbour cruise and see this ill fated fort. Perhaps it is high time somebody passed by there and took a close look at what our heritage looks like!


Lawrence Borg(2 weeks, 2 days ago) 

Scaffolding everywhere, workers nowhere and some time ago they mentioned they should engage 120 workers

For when are these lots of bastions suppose to be ready? I doubt they will stick to the 2 years planned timeframe.

L.Pace Bonello(2 weeks, 2 days ago) 

Well done!!!! but it will be a useless exercise unless severe pruning is carried out on the huge trees surrounding Mdina bastions especially the ones concealing the newly restored main gate.

J Galea(2 weeks, 2 days ago) 

This is all very good. However, when restoring the bastions surely it is in order that a metal railing be installed at the top of them to bring them to the normal 1.2m safety height. I have in mind in particular the bastions of lower barracca, Hastings garden and especially Santa Barbara bastion, which are dangerously low not only for children living and visiting Valletta but also for adults, both Maltese and tourists. I don't think that the authorities need reminding that at least 3 persons have died involuntarily by falling from these bastions in recent years. If there had been a 1.2 minimum height threshold it is highly unlikely that they would have fallen. A single steel rail at the top is inexpensive and can be an elegant solution, but safety on its own requires this. Do we need to wait for another casualty or a negligence suit against the public authorities to have this done?